

It is only when a large diamond robbery like that of the Burden jewels takes place, and itemized accounts of the stolen articles are published, that the public becomes aware of the vast fortunes in gems which are possessed by the wealthy women of New York. In fact, few of these women are themselves aware of the actual value of the contents of their jewel safes or deposit vaults. Their wealth in costliest stones is almost as incalculable as the sessions of a multi-millionaire. They

The display of wealth in gems at the opera in New York has become famous throughout the world. The great dazzling horseshoe of women recklessly garbed, so that their white flesh may form a better background for the display of their effulgent jewels is generally conceded to be one of the sights which the visitor to American shores must see, and he goes

Mrs. William Astor.....	\$150,000
Mrs. Bradley Martin.....	150,000
Mrs. Henry Sloane.....	125,000
Countess Castellane.....	150,000
Mrs. Willie K. Vanderbilt.....	100,000
Mrs. Townsend Burden.....	100,000
Mrs. Seward Webb, Mrs. H. McKay Twombly, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt, Mrs. Ogden Goelet, Mrs. Robert Goelet, Mrs. John Jacob Astor, Mrs. George Gould, Mrs. Elisha Dyer, Mrs. Whitney Warren.....	500,000
Total.....	\$1,275,000

As a man who has been in the business for many years I give it as my opinion that the robbery of the Burden house was the work of professionals. There was a "second story man" who had done a very clearly a job done by a "second story man" with a helper or "tail," as we call him, outside. My reasons for this belief are as follows:

The Burden house offers a most inviting field for a professional. It seems to have been almost built with the object in view of being broken into from the outside. The mercer "chicken" could have done it. All that was necessary was the chance to stay in town and prospect.

There is a very good reason in the Police Department. Under the new order professionals were no longer worried last Summer and they could look around and prospect as they pleased. There was small chance of being caught, plus the fact that the clearing out of most of the old hands

I, myself, worked in the daytime, before I quit the business, about as much as I could in bedark, at dinner hour, and but for the accident, I could more easily have happened at night than in the daytime. I would never have been collar.

The gas lamps, therefore, proved little or no obstacle. All that was necessary was to see that the coast was clear. The "stall" looked after that. At the right time the "second-story" man was boosted up on the natural ladder appended by the

A rare old plant is the ivy green  
That creepeth o'er ruins old.

There is one variety of that rare old plant which, if it creepeth by mistake over human beings instead of ruins old, leaves its mark behind it and makes its victim bowi with the pain of swellings.

But when Charles Dickens wrote his famous poem, he had no thought of the Rhus Toxicodendron, the poisonous plant which made Thomas Connelly yell with




No maker of anarchistic novels or melodramatic playwright has as yet chosen for his sensational climax one of the most possible of modern catastrophes—the defeat of an organized band of thieves upon the Metropolitan Opera House upon an "on" night during the season when millions of dollars' worth of diamonds hang about the throats of New York fair women comparatively unprotected and unguarded.

No better proof of the civilization and progress of our time and country is need-

away fully impressed by this indisputable evidence of our prodigality and possession.

When Mrs. Astor appeared at the opera several seasons ago crowned with diamonds she created a veritable sensation and set a fashion which has since become old. Every society woman in New York wore diamonds and diamonds on hand to her eases. Then Mrs. Brandler, Martin stunned some great assemblage by appearing in resplendent stomacher of diamonds and emeralds, and presently diamond belts became the rage. The result



Mrs. Vanderbilt's Pearl Necklace

"These jewel safes cost anywhere from \$300 to several thousand, where there is any excavating work or any elaborate provisions for hiding entrance doors, etc. But a safe in a private residence is much more likely to be a small safe, which is unprotected during the night. Few burglars will risk the inevitable discovery that would follow an attempt to blow up a safe in a private residence."



**The Most Valuable**  
the Tiaras... made for... Countess...

held for a professional. It seems to have been almost built with the object in view of making entrance as easy as possible. The merest "chicken" could have done it. All that was necessary was the chance to stay in town and prospect.

This was the change in the Police Department. Under the new order professionals were no longer worried so prominently and they could look around and prospect as they pleased. There was small danger of arrest on bluff or suspicion. The clearing out of most of the old hands

le Pieces of Jewe

I, myself, worked in the daytime, before I quit the business, about as much as I could in the dark, at dinner hour, and but for an accident, which could not easily have happened at night than in the daytime, I would never have been collared.

The gas lamps, therefore, proved little or no obstacle. All that was necessary was to see that the coast was clear. The "second" man looked after that. At the right time the "second-story" man was boosted up on the natural ladder appended by the

lry in New York.

(Sketched by a Journalist)

at this point, as every one knows, is the least frequented street of any in that part of the city. The hotel has no entrance here, and people who go to the hotel always pass through the park. There would probably not be a dozen pedestrians there during the entire evening, except when there is something going on at Madison Square Garden like the Horse Show.

Getting away, therefore, was as easy by the back door as by the front.

WILLIAM SMITH, "SMITH'S."

pain, changed him from a handsome young fellow into a thing with big, distorted face and puffy hands, and finally landed him, all aching, in the Fordham Hospital one day last week.

That may be because Charles Dickens was not posted on the dangers of the suburbs of New York.

The vine is common and may be found in almost any piece of woods in the vicinity of New York. Hundreds of cases of ivy poisoning are treated every year in the city dispensaries. The patients, for the most part, are laborers employed by farmers in the suburban districts. Gatherers of autumn leaves are frequent victims also. In some cases for pretty specimens they sometimes pick up a branch of the poison ivy, and so become inoculated with the ailment and readily to treatment if taken.

usually to treatment if taken in time. The milky fluid contained in the sap, a milky fluid which, after being exposed to the air for a few minutes, is a volatile acid, resembling acetic acid in its effects. The victim is first made aware of the fact that he has been poisoned by the appearance of minute itchy papules, which, in a few hours, of course, the tendency is to scratch. The blisters contain a watery substance which is as poisonous as the sap of the vine. If allowed to spread over the skin surface it extends the irritation, and finally swelling the surface.

ests in, accompanied by great pain in the head and very poisonous. The difference in people as to their susceptibility. Some can handle the plant with impunity, while others get sick over faces and hands with no ill effects. It has been asserted that some people cannot go in close proximity to the vine without suffering. Some physicians attribute this to vaporous particles from a freshly cut vine being carried in the air. The boy who died was a very susceptible on skin diseases, had recently under his care a boy who became poisoned by the same disease.

The lad's companions made a fire of brushwood in which was some of the rhubarb. The boy who died was not near the fire, but the boy, who was particularly susceptible, was poisoned by the particles in the

No explanation is afforded for the immunity from ivy poisoning which many people enjoy.

people enjoy the use of the idiosyncracies of the medical profession," said Dr. Cyrus Edson, in speaking of the matter. "Some people can eat lobsters, while others are made ill by them. Some people can eat fish and have nothing to do with it. It is the old saying illustrated: 'What is one man's meat is another man's poison.' There are few people who can eat anything without getting fatally," he continued. "Where the patient has died, it has usually been the result of the poison being taken internally. Children are especially liable to eat things that eat the leaves unconsciously, and great sufferings and even death has followed." The police try to distinguish between the two groups of people and together at the end of long stems, and rather long and pointed. They are a little more than a foot long, with a downy surface, and a greenish color.

**Lofty Honors.**

"Yes, sir; I've held one of the highest positions in the gift of the Government."

"You don't say. What was it?"

"I ran the elevator in the Washington Monument."



The Most Valuable Pieces of Jewelry in New York.